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"Harmony in
Diversity"

PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

"Active
Citizenship"

VOLUME V

PORTLAND, OREGON, DECEMBER 26, 1924

NUMBER 14

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

Hotel Benson, 12:10

LAST 1924 MEETING

SPEAKER

BOVIA H. MacCLAIN

For Twelve Years in India, Burma and Ceylon

SUBJECT

"British Rule in India"

SPECIAL MUSIC

JOSEPH P. MULDER Tenor
Popular City Club Member

MAKE THE LAST MEETING IN 1924 A BIG MEETING

SCHOOL ELECTION LAW SHOULD BE AMENDED

The report of the Education and Recreation section concerning the qualifications of electors is presented in this issue of the *Bulletin*. The report gives the text of the Oregon law, points out its weaknesses and sets forth the advantages of amending the law to abolish the property qualification in school elections.

The report has been approved by the Board of Governors and will be presented to the Club for adoption at the regular meeting, Friday, December 26th.

The report follows:

To the Governors of the City Club:

The undersigned were asked to report to the Board of Governors on the proposed amendment to the State law on qualifications of electors

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MEMBERS ENJOY CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Christmas music and a Christmas address filled the atmosphere with the Christmas spirit of good cheer at the City Club luncheon last Friday.

"Nothing has been accomplished by war that could not have been accomplished by other methods of peace had men so willed," said Dr. Harold Leonard Bowman, pastor of the First Presbyterian church in his Christmas address before the Club last Friday. "War is the only remaining stronghold where crime can find respectability.

"Never has Christendom taken seriously the application of good will to world affairs," pointed out the speaker. "We apply it only to the personal realm. The international realm is where Christendom does not function. What

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PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

Published Weekly By

THE CITY CLUB OF PORTLAND

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Entered as Second Class Matter, October 29, 1920, at the postoffice at Portland, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1879

City Club dues are \$1.00 per month, payable semi-annually on May 1st, and November 1st. There is no initiation fee.

CITY CLUB PURPOSE

"To inform its members and the community in public matters and to arouse them to a realization of the obligations of citizenship."

CITY CLUB OFFICERS

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GEORGE N. WOODLEY First Vice-President
ROY DENNY Second Vice-President
MACCORMAC SNOW Secretary
A. L. ANDRUS Treasurer

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2. GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION & PUBLIC FINANCE
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Edward Laird Mills Chairman
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BRITISH CONTROL INDIA

India, the stormiest land under the control of the British government, will be the subject for an address by Bovia H. MacClaine before the City Club this week. Few men are able to present the problems of this country as impartially and effectively as Mr. MacClaine. For twelve years the speaker was in India as regional director of Y. M. C. A. activities in southern Asia. He was in close contact with government officials and had opportunity to study the conditions as they actually existed.

To what extent education is causing unrest in India will be explained by the speaker. The development of institutions of higher education and the effect of their teachings upon the people as a whole are changing conditions in the Orient rapidly.

Why is England handling the Egyptian situation with such severity and what will the effect be upon India? Will education bring a better form of government than is now in force or will it bring bloody civil war? How far will western industrial and commercial development penetrate the Far East and what will be the result? How is England able to hold control over this densely populated and turbulent country? What will happen to India if British control is overthrown or withdrawn? Hear Bovia H. MacClaine at the City Club luncheon this week. He is an interesting speaker and has a message you cannot afford to miss.

Joseph P. Mulder, popular City Club tenor, will sing at the regular luncheon this week. The program promises to be one of the best of the entire year. Mrs. Mulder will accompany on the piano.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following application for membership in the City Club of Portland has been received and will be presented to the Club for approval, Friday, January 30th:

DR. H. M. GREENE
Physician
1206 Stevens Building

Proposed for membership by Dr. C. U. Moore.

SCHOOL ELECTION LAW

Continued from page 1

in school elections. The amendment would permit all citizens who possess the qualifications usual in state elections to vote on all questions as well as candidates in school elections. The present law provides as follows:

"Any citizen of this state, male or female, who is twenty-one years of age and has resided in the district thirty days immediately preceding the meeting or election and has property in the district, as shown by the last county assessment, and not assessed by the sheriff, on which he or she is liable or subject to pay a tax, shall be entitled to vote at any school meeting or election in said district; provided, that the property qualifications imposed by this section shall not apply in the election of school directors and school clerks."

Abandon Obsolete System

The theory of this provision appears to be that on school tax levies and on school bonds, electors who do not own property are irresponsible people who will waste the district's money and on the other hand, that property owners are the only persons sufficiently intelligent and responsible to vote on school finances. It was common practice in the early days of the republic to limit the right to vote to property owners in state elections, and it is only in recent years that Rhode Island abandoned this restriction. American practice outside of school affairs shows that the old theory has been abandoned.

All Bear Tax Burden

Economists agree that a man bears the burden of taxation although he is not on the tax roll. The man or woman who has no taxable property does, by the shifting of the tax, pay taxes through his rent, grocery bills and practically every item in the cost of living.

Some weight should be given to the following figures on the votes cast in the last two school elections in this District on candidates, bonds and tax levies:

1923—

Vote on candidates.....	20,018
Vote on bonds.....	18,842
Vote on tax levy.....	18,526

1924—

Vote on candidates.....	18,333
Vote on bonds.....	16,594
Vote on tax levy.....	16,679

In 1923, 117% or 6% of the electors who voted

MEMBERS ENJOY MUSIC

Continued from page 1

we need in America and the world today is the will to make peace, preserving the principles of the first Christmas day. We need the desire to work with others and to refrain from injuring them. Fellowship rather than cleavage and friendship rather than enmity should be our desire.

"Christmas means the glorification of the commonplace," stated Dr. Bowman. "It is the time when the divine and human come closest together. It calls us to the highest levels of joy—from the joy of getting to the joy of giving, from the joy of greed to the joy of service.

Christmas carols, sung by the quartet of the First Presbyterian church delighted the audience. "The Heavenly Message," "Little Town of Bethlehem," "What Child is This," "We Three Kings of Orient Are," and "Holy Night" were sung by the quartet.

for candidates did not vote on the bonds and in 1924, 1739 or 9% of such electors did not vote on the bonds. It would be hard to prove that:

1. Those excluded from voting on money matters were in fact unfit to do so.

2. That those so excluded would have voted as a body either for or against a levy or bonds, or would have in any way affected the result of the election on the financial questions.

Our city, county and state elections where the property qualification does not exist, show that the general electorate is just as reluctant to authorize bonds and tax levies as are the property owning school electors. This has been true even when the Taxpayers League and other large taxpayers have advocated the bond and tax measures.

Some of the advantages of amending the law to abolish the property qualification in school elections are that everyone would then have a full share of the responsibility, that it would be easier for the judges and clerks of election to conduct the election, and that it would tend to bring out a larger vote.

There seems to be no sound reason opposed to this amendment and distinct advantages in its adoption. It is therefore recommended that the amendment be approved.

SIGNED—

WM. L. BREWSTER

RICHARD W. MONTAGUE

FINANCE LECTURE TOUR

A plan for financing the eastern advertising lecture campaign of Frank Branch Riley, Oregon's official spokesman, calls for the assistance of City Club members. Club members, having heard Mr. Riley on numerous occasions, are familiar with the great work he is doing for the Northwest. The following letter setting forth the method by which the money is to be raised meets with the unqualified approval of the Board of Governors:

City Club of Portland:—

We desire to enlist the assistance of the members of the City Club of Portland, in the continuation of the eastern advertising lecture campaigns of Mr. Frank Branch Riley, of Portland.

His work has been appraised by undoubted experts in all sections of the United States as an outstanding publicity medium for Oregon and the Northwest. Metropolitan newspapers and the magazines of the organizations, under whose auspices he appears, carry, incidental to his visit, flattering reports and praise of our scenic and industrial assets in both news and editorial columns.

As you no doubt know, Mr. Riley's lecture is presented to the City Clubs in many of the cities of his itineraries and on such occasions announcement is made that the entertainment is provided with the co-operation and with the compliments of the City Club of his home city.

This year there is urgent need for your assistance in financing the work.

For the maintenance of our campaigns conducted by Mr. Riley, for the season now approaching, the sum of \$30,000 is required. \$10,000 of this will be provided by the State-Wide Development Fund. In getting pledged the balance of \$20,000, we, the undersigned who have undertaken again to act as trustees for the subscribers, earnestly ask the assistance of members of the City Club and trust that, as the result of an active canvass among the responsive members of the Club, a substantial amount may be subscribed.

Respectfully yours,

GUY W. TALBOT
J. C. AINSWORTH

The complete railways report, a comprehensive study of the railway systems of Oregon and southeastern Washington will be presented in a special twelve page issue of the *Bulletin* next week.

GOVERNMENT ESSENTIALS

"The government of a city may be made a good advertisement for a city or it may be a source of damaging publicity," is a statement from Public Affairs, official organ of the Kansas City Public Service Institute.

The report continues by setting forth the following qualities which it considers essential if the government is to be entirely satisfactory to the people and if it is to be an incentive to best city growth and development:

1. It must be efficient. This means that it must produce results. It must do its work in a manner satisfactory to the people.

2. It must be economical. This does not mean that it should not do all its necessary work. It means only that it must give actual return for the money spent.

3. It must be far-sighted. The problems of today will be immensely greater in the future. If, for example, there is a traffic problem now, what will it be ten years from now when the people working in the business district may be doubled and the number of automobiles increased in even greater proportion? In dealing with all its problems the city must consider its future intelligently.

4. It must have a public service viewpoint. Government differs from private business in that it is a co-operative enterprise of all the people and must consider first the general welfare.

5. It must be democratic. The government belongs to the people and must be responsive to the enlightened public will.

6. It must be able to inspire public interest, confidence and support. If it has the preceding qualities, this last will naturally follow.

Friday, the day after Christmas, will be the last opportunity to hear a City Club program in 1924. The speaker has a message that demands attention and the singer is one of Portland's best. Come, help make the last meeting in 1924 a big meeting.

The present Boston city council will be replaced in January, 1926, by a council of 26 members, one from each ward in the city. This charter amendment was voted by a small majority. The borough system with 15 councilmen was rejected.—*Municipal Library Notes.*